

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing pharmaceutical information to a patient, said method comprising:
dispensing a pharmaceutical product having an electronically identifiable tag associated with said pharmaceutical product;
electronically reading said electronically identifiable tag of said pharmaceutical product to identify said pharmaceutical product;
prompting said patient with a selective opportunity to accept or decline prescription counseling by interacting with an electronic input device;
wherein said patient selects to accept said prescription counseling, retrieving electronically stored pharmaceutical ~~information~~counseling about said pharmaceutical product; and
electronically disclosing said stored pharmaceutical ~~information~~counseling to said patient;
~~wherein said stored pharmaceutical information comprises prescription counseling; and~~
~~prompting said patient with an opportunity to accept or decline said prescription counseling by interacting with an electronic input device;~~
~~wherein said stored pharmaceutical information is audibly disclosed.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein electronically disclosing said stored pharmaceutical counseling information to said patient comprises:
electronically prompting said patient with a first message, wherein said first message provides said patient with an interactive choice of accepting or declining said pharmaceutical counseling information; and
wherein said pharmaceutical counseling information ~~is~~ electronically disclosed to said patient upon said patient interactively choosing to accept said pharmaceutical counseling information, based upon said information derived from said electronic identification of said pharmaceutical product, or wherein no pharmaceutical information is electronically disclosed to said patient upon said patient interactively choosing to decline said pharmaceutical counseling information.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
electronically prompting said patient with a second message which provides said patient with an
interactive option to speak with a pharmacist; and
wherein said patient interactively accepts or declines said option to speak with a pharmacist.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said electronic
input device comprises a touch-screen display, a microphone or a keyboard.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising electronically
creating an electronic log of said interaction of said patient.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising said patient
providing a signature and electronically recording said signature of said patient.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising electronically
notifying said pharmacist of said option selected by said patient to speak with said pharmacist.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein electronically
disclosing said stored pharmaceutical counseling information further comprises an act selected
from the group consisting of: electronically displaying said stored pharmaceutical counseling
information to said patient on an electronic visual display, printing said stored pharmaceutical
counseling information on a print medium, generating a voice message reciting said stored
pharmaceutical counseling information, and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein electronically prompting said
patient with said first message is selected from the group consisting of: electronically displaying
said first message to said patient on an electronic visual display, printing said first message on a
print medium, generating a voice message reciting said first message, and combinations thereof.

11. (Currently amended) A system for providing interactive pharmaceutical information corresponding to a pharmaceutical product dispensed to a patient, said system comprising:
identification means for electronically identifying said pharmaceutical product, wherein said identification means is physically associated with said pharmaceutical product;
scanning means for electronically identifying said identification means corresponding to said pharmaceutical product;
retrieval means for electronically retrieving stored pharmaceutical counseling information identified by said scanning means, ~~wherein said stored pharmaceutical information comprises prescription counseling;~~
an electronic input device for allowing said patient to accept or decline receiving said stored pharmaceutical counseling;
disclosing means for ~~audibly disclosing said stored pharmaceutical counseling information to~~ said patient upon interaction of said patient with said electronic input device; and
~~an electronic input device for interacting with said patient~~ means for storing a selection of said patient to accept or decline said stored pharmaceutical counseling.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said identification means is selected from the group consisting of a bar code, a magnetic strip, and a radio frequency identification tag.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein:
said identification means is said bar code; and
said scanning means is a bar-code scanner.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said disclosing means further comprises a device selected from the group consisting of a visual display, a touch-screen display, a speaker, a telephone receiver, head phones, a printer, and combinations thereof.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said retrieval means comprises a computer-based apparatus having electronic storage.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said computer-based apparatus is operatively configured to control said scanning means and a display means.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a notification device for informing a pharmacist of said interaction of said patient.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said computer-based apparatus is operatively connected to the Internet.

20. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising an electronic signature capture device for electronically recording a signature of said patient.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-based apparatus for providing pharmaceutical information to a patient, comprising:
an electronic identification device for identifying an active ingredient of a pharmaceutical product;
an electronic communication device for conveying prescription counseling to said patient;
an input device ~~for interacting with~~ operably configured to provide said patient with a selective opportunity to accept or decline said prescription counseling;
an output device for disclosing said pharmaceutical ~~counseling information~~ to said patient upon said patient selecting to accept said prescription counseling;
a central processing unit configured to run at least one executable software program, wherein said central processing unit includes at least one memory device with said at least one executable software program stored thereon; and
wherein said central processing unit controls, at least partially in response to said running of said at least one executable software program, said function of said electronic identification device, said electronic communication device, said input device, and said output device.

22. (Currently amended) The computer-based apparatus of claim 21, wherein said at least one executable software program directs said central processing unit to perform the steps of: collecting data gathered by said electronic identification device; generating said message; receiving data collected by said input device; and directing said output device to provide said pharmaceutical counseling information—to said patient.

23. (Original) The computer-based apparatus of claim 21, wherein said computer-based apparatus is operatively connected to the Internet.

24. (Original) The computer-based apparatus of claim 21, further comprising an electronic signature capture device for recording a signature of said patient.

25. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the patient's selection of accepting or declining the prescription counseling.

26. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said prescription counseling complies with state law.